

2012 Planning Rule and Forest Plan Revision

Assessment
and
Plan Components

The Assessment

219.4 Public Participation – (a) *Provide opportunity for participation*



219.5 Planning Framework – (a)(1) *Assessment*



219.6 Assessment – *Entire section*

219.4 Requirements for Public Participation

(a) The responsible official shall provide opportunities to the public for participation in the assessment process.

219.5 Planning Framework

(a)(1) *Assessment.* Assessments rapidly evaluate existing information about relevant ecological , economic, and social conditions, trends, and sustainability and their relationship to the land management plan within the context of the broader landscape.

219.6 Assessment

- (a) An assessment must be completed for plan revision
- (a)(1) Identify and consider relevant existing information contained in *(lists numerous sources)*
- (2) Coordinate with or provide opportunities for ...(lists numerous entities)... and the public to provide existing information for the assessment.
- (3) Document the assessment in a report available to the public. The document should.... *(list 3 items)*
- (3)(b) *Content of the assessment for revision.* In the assessment for revision, the responsible official shall identify and evaluate existing information relevant to the plan area for the following: *(lists 15 items)*

Important Points

- The Assessment holds the information/science used throughout the revision process
- The Assessment can be updated at any time.
- The Assessment will be in draft form until revision is completed

Questions

Plan Components 219.7(e)

Required Plan Components. Every plan must include the following plan components 219.7(e)(1):

- Desired Conditions—219.7(e)(1)(i)
- Objectives—219.7(e)(1)(ii)
- Standards—219.7(e)(1)(iii)
- Guidelines—219.7(e)(1)(iv)
- Suitability of Lands—219.7(e)(1)(v)

219.7(e)(1)(i) *Desired Condition*

A desired condition is a description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed.

Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined but do not include completion dates.

Desired Condition

Guidelines for Writing

- May be the same as existing conditions
- May only be achieved in the long term. If desired conditions cannot be achieved or are no longer valid or relevant to the long-term multiple-use management of the plan, the plan should be amended or revised
- May apply to the entire Plan area, or to specific management or geographic areas
- Must not direct taking action or prohibit taking action or indicate specific agency actions (must not use terms like “must”, “will”, or “shall”) or tools (prescribed fire, thinning) for reaching or maintaining the desired condition

Desired Condition

Guidelines for Writing (Continued)

- Should be expressed in a way that help forest managers determine the uses that are suitable and the possible management actions that may be proposed during the planning period
- Should be written with enough detail so that the intent is clear and progress toward their achievement can be monitored
- May be stated in comparative terms such as “more,” or “less,” or “increased,” or “decreased” if the baseline is clearly stated
- May be stated in terms of a range of conditions
- Are informed by the best available science

Examples of Desired Condition

Handout

Questions

219.7(e)(1)(ii) *Objectives*

An objective is a concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions.

Objectives should be based on reasonably foreseeable budgets.

Objectives

Guidelines for Writing

- Describe the focus of management in the plan area within the plan period
- Must be based on achieving and monitoring progress toward desired conditions
- Must be stated in measureable terms with specific reasonable time frames
- Help set criteria for priority areas or activities, with a timing expectation that near-term objectives would be completed first, depending on funding

Objectives

Guidelines for Writing (Continued)

- Must be based on budgets and other assumptions that are realistic expectations for the selected period of time
- Are neither actions nor commands to take action and are not to be written as such; must not use terms like “must”, “will”, or “shall”
- Are informed by the best available scientific information

Examples of Objectives

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Questions

219.7(e)(1)(iii) *Standards*

A standard is a mandatory constraint on project and activity decision making, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

Standards

Guidelines for Writing

- Place definitive design constraints on projects and activities using mandatory language, such as “must”
- Are stated in a way that clearly shows a connection between the standard and achieving or maintaining a desired condition
- May apply to all or part of the plan area
- Are written clearly and without ambiguity so that consistency of a project or activity with a standard can be easily determined
- Are written so they are in accord with agency authorities, and the inherent capability of the plan area

Standards

Guidelines for Writing (Continued)

- Should not restate direction from other sources such as laws, regulations, and Forest Service directives, but may cite to other sources. The plan may need to interpret how laws, regulations, or policies are to be carried out.
- Should not direct or compel processes such as analysis, assessment, inventory, or monitoring
- Must not restate other plan components
- Do not use standards if another plan component, such as desired conditions or suitability of uses, would better express the intent

Standards

Guidelines for Writing (Continued)

- Are informed by best available scientific information
- Guidelines should be used instead of standards in cases where uncertainties are high
- Are not project or activity decisions, public use prohibitions, or designations of roads, trails, or areas for motor vehicle use under 36 CFR 212.50

Examples of Standards

Handout

Questions

219.7_{(e)(1)(iii)} *Guidelines*

A guideline is a constraint on project and activity decision making, that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met.

Guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

Guidelines

Guidelines for Writing

- Must not use words that would compel or prohibit projects or activities; however, failure to meet the intent of a guideline would preclude the activity
- Are technical design specifications for projects and activities
- Are stated in a way that clearly shows a connection between the guideline and achieving or maintaining a desired condition
- Are written clearly and without ambiguity so that their purpose is apparent and consistency of a project or activity with a guideline can be easily determined
- Are written so that they are within agency authorities, and the inherent capability of the plan area

Guidelines

Guidelines for Writing Continued

- Should not restate direction from other sources such as legal requirements, directives, rules, or regulations
- Should not direct or compel processes such as analysis, assessment, inventory, or monitoring
- Must not restate other plan components
- Do not use guidelines if another plan component, such as desired conditions or suitability of uses, would better express the intent
- Are informed by the best available scientific information

Examples of Guidelines

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Questions

219.7(e)(1)(v) *Suitability of Lands*

Specific lands within a plan area will be identified as suitable for various multiple uses or activities based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands.

The plan will also identify lands within the plan area as not suitable for uses that are not compatible with desired conditions for those lands.

The suitability of lands need not be identified for every use or activity...Every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production.

- Suitable
- Not Suitable
- Use of Suitability and Nonsuitability Statements

Examples of Suitability of lands

Handout

Questions

End